

# College of Arts and Sciences

## History

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### **B.A. in History**

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#### **Admission to the Program**

Formal admission to the major requires departmental approval.

#### **University Requirements**

- A total of 120 credit hours
- 6 credit hours of college writing
- 3 credit hours of college mathematics or the equivalent by examination

#### **General Education Requirements**

- A total of ten courses, consisting of one foundation course and one second-level course in an approved sequence from each of the five curricular areas
- No more than 6 credit hours may be taken in the same discipline

#### **Major Requirements**

- 39 credit hours with grades of C or better including at least 15 credit hours at the 300 level or above.

The department recommends that before enrolling in a course at the 300 level or above, students should complete a suitable introductory course or attain equivalent knowledge.

#### **Advanced Placement**

Prospective history majors may qualify for 3 advanced placement (AP) credits toward the major in both American and European history (for a total of 6 credits), provided the appropriate AP examination grade is a 4 or 5. Students cannot receive AP credit towards the major if they also take the comparable survey courses in either American history (HIST-205 and HIST-206) or European history (HIST-110). A satisfactory International Baccalaureate (IB) examination may count toward fulfilling a specific course requirement for the major. Entering students with academic credit for IB examinations in history

courses should consult with the department. A total of 6 AP and IB credits can be counted toward the history major.

#### **Course Requirements**

- HIST-480 Major Seminar I (3)
- HIST-481 Major Seminar II (3)
- One course in ancient or medieval history
- One course in Asian, East European, modern Middle Eastern, or Russian history
- One course in African, African-American, Latin American, or Native American history
- One course in Western European or British history at the 300 level or above
- One course in U.S. history at the 300 level or above
- Additional courses to make a total of 39 credit hours in history (which may include JWST-205 Ancient and Medieval Jewish Civilization). At least 20 of the 39 credit hours must be taken at American University; at least 15 of the 39 must be at the 300 level or above.

#### **University Honors Program**

All University Honors students must complete at least 12 credit hours of advanced-level (300-level and above) Honors courses including a 3 to 6 credit hour Honors Senior Capstone Project. Students may graduate with University Honors in the major if they complete at least 12 advanced-level Honors courses including the Senior Capstone Project in the department. Each department has three levels of University Honors requirements: Level I Options (100-200-level Honors classes); Level II Options (300-level and above Honors classes); and Level III Options (Honors Senior Capstone). The department Honors coordinator advises students in the University Honors Program regarding departmental options. For more information, go to [www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/](http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/honors/).

## **Minor in History**

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- 21 credit hours with grades of C or better and with at least 12 credit hours unique to the minor

### **Course Requirements**

- One course in Western European or British history at the 300 level or above
- One course in U.S. history at the 300 level or above
- One course in an area other than Western European, British, or U.S. history
- Four more courses in history, including at least two at the 300 level or above. The department requires that all 300-level courses be taken at American University.

At least 12 of the 21 credit hours in history must be taken at American University.

## **Combined B.A. and M.A. in History**

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The program enables students to complete both the B.A. and M.A. in History.

### **Admission to the Program**

Interested students should apply for admission to the program in their junior year. Students in this program are not required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Students will be admitted formally to M.A. status only if they have completed all requirements for the B.A. in History with at least an overall 3.20 grade point average and a 3.50 grade point average in history courses.

### **Requirements**

- All requirements for the B.A. in History  
Undergraduate students may apply up to 9 credit hours of approved graduate-level course work in history to satisfy the requirements of both degrees.
- All requirements for the M.A. in History, including a minimum of 18 credit hours completed in residence in graduate status after the undergraduate degree has been awarded.

## **M.A. in History**

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### **Admission to the Program**

In addition to meeting the minimum university requirements for graduate study, applicants must earn a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Examination (verbal, quantitative, and analytic). Admission is based on academic record, test scores, letters of recommendation from two professors with whom work was taken recently, and favorable judgment by the department graduate committee and chair.

### **Degree Requirements**

- 30–33 credit hours of approved graduate work; no more than 50 percent of course work may be done in 300/600 level courses.
- Tool of research: a relevant foreign language, quantitative methods, oral history, digital history, or a methodology approved by the graduate committee of the Department of History
- One comprehensive examination
- Standard (nonthesis) option: Two substantial research papers with grades of B or better, one in HIST-751/752 Research Seminar and one in HIST-500 Studies in History  
Thesis option: a satisfactory thesis, completed through 6 credit hours of HIST-797 Master's Thesis Seminar with grades of B or better

### **Course Requirements**

- HIST-500 Studies in History (3) with a grade of B or better
- Two colloquia from the following with grades of B or better:  
HIST-720 Colloquium in Modern European History since 1789 I (3)  
HIST-721 Colloquium in Modern European History since 1789 II (3)  
HIST-727 Colloquium in United States History I: to 1865 (3)  
HIST-728 Colloquium in United States History II: since 1865 (3)  
or approved substitute for one of the above colloquia
- HIST-744 The Historian's Craft (3) with a grade of B or better, usually taken in the student's first fall semester in the program
- Standard (nonthesis) option:  
One of the following:  
HIST-751 Research Seminar in European History (3)  
HIST-752 Research Seminar in United States History (3)  
or approved substitute  
*or*  
Thesis option: HIST-797 Master's Thesis Seminar (6)
- 12–15 credit hours in approved graduate course work  
*or*

### **Public History Concentration**

- HIST-729 Public History Seminar (3) with a grade of B or better
- HIST-730 Public History Practicum (3) with a grade of B or better
- HIST-691 Internship in History (3)
- 6 credit hours in approved graduate course work

## **Ph.D. in History**

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### **Admission to the Program**

In addition to meeting the minimum university requirements for graduate study, applicants normally have completed an M.A. in History or a related field, have earned a satisfactory score on the Graduate Record Exam (Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytic), and have made a substantial beginning in one tool of research. Admission is based on academic record, letters of recommendation from two professors with whom work was taken recently, a sample of recent written work of substantial length (M.A. thesis, research paper, or interpretative essay) and favorable judgment by the department's graduate committee and department chair.

### **Degree Requirements**

- 72 credit hours of approved graduate work
- Two of the following as tools of research: relevant foreign languages, quantitative methods, digital history, oral history, or a methodology approved by the graduate committee of the Department of History
- Comprehensive examinations in four fields: Comprehensive examinations are offered in the areas of ancient history, United States history, modern European history, British history, Latin American history, modern Asian history, Russian history, Middle Eastern history, and diplomatic history.  
One field must be a historical field outside the student's main area of concentration, a comparative or multidisciplinary field, or a field in another discipline.
- Dissertation and oral defense (Dissertation work is not usually available in ancient, Russian, Asian, or Latin American history.)

### **Course Requirements**

Specific course requirements depend on whether students received their M.A. in History from American University. For more information, consult the Department of History.

- HIST-744 The Historian's Craft (3) with a grade of B or better, taken in the student's first semester of course work
- HIST-799 Doctoral Dissertation Seminar (12–24)